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Northern Territory: The people, the land, the economy

According to a publication profiling the Northern Territory released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today births in the Territory outnumbered deaths by approximately four to one in the year ending June 2000, compared to early last century where deaths outnumbered births by around two to one.

Regional Statistics Northern Territory, 2001 profiles the land, people and economy of the Northern Territory (NT), and includes a regional overview of the Territory, together with information ranging from population, demographics, employment, education, health, and housing, to agriculture and fisheries, mining, transport, tourism, and local government finance.

A wide range of data in the publication is provided through the cooperation of NT and Commonwealth Government agencies and other organisations.

Other findings include:

- The population of NT in 1911 was 3,300 and steadily rose throughout the century to 86,400 in 1971, 165,900 in 1991 and 195,500 in 2000.
- The population of Palmerston increased by 8 per cent to an estimated 21,209 in the year to June 2000, whereas the population of Darwin increased only marginally by 0.6 per cent to 68,802.
- At 30 June 2000 the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of people aged 14 years and under of any State or Territory (26 per cent compared with just over 20 per cent nationally). In contrast the Territory had the lowest proportion of people aged 65 years and over (3.5 per cent compared with approximately 12 per cent nationally).
- In 1999 Barkly region had the highest road traffic accident fatality rate, 2.2 per 1,000 registered motor vehicles and the second highest injury rate, 41.5 per 1,000 registered motor vehicles behind Darwin Region Balance (51.5).
- An estimated 205,000 backpackers stayed in commercial accommodation in the Territory during 1999-00, a 38 per cent increase compared to the previous year. The number of backpackers staying in hotels, motels and caravan parks increased while the number staying in visitor hostels decreased.
- Katherine and Central Regions each accounted for 13 per cent of the \$164m worth of non-residential (commercial) building completions in NT for 1999-2000, with Darwin SD and Environs accounting for 72 per cent.
- During 2000 there were 299,179 live cattle exported through the Port of Darwin, with Indonesia (136,323) and the Philippines (108,957) as the main final destinations.

A major addition to this year's publication and in celebration of the Centenary of Federation, is a feature article '**A Territory for a Nation**' written by NT historians, Peter and Sheila Forrest. The

article provides a history of the Territory from Federation to present day and includes a timeline of major events.

Further details can be found in **Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, 2001** (cat. no. 1362.7). If you wish to purchase a copy of this publication contact the ABS bookshop in your capital city.

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